

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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★ In This Issue ★

Hemisphere Wide Ham Operation
Specific Call Sign Issuance
Reorganization of §Part 97 Rules
Amateur Emergency Communications
General Mobile Radio Service NPRM
Hi-Tech Soviet Espionage
Amateur Radio Call Signs, Stats
Special Bicentennial Call Signs
New "73 Magazine" Editor-in-Chief
Electronic Device Usage on Aircraft
Extended Coverage Ham Radios
Dallas Ham Sues in Federal Court
and much, much more!

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Status of Personal Radio Rulemaking

Ray Kowalski, Chief of the FCC's Special Services Division (which oversees the Amateur Radio Service) left for a two week vacation on Friday, July 24th. We chatted with him on the status of personal radio rule-making just before he left.

RECIPROCAL PRIVILEGES WITH MEXICO....

Ray recently attended the Executive Committee meeting of CITEL - the Spanish acronym for the InterAmerican Telecommunications Conference - in Mexico City. Finishing touches were completed on a proposed universal reciprocal operating arrangement for amateur radio operators in our hemisphere. This will pave the way for ham operating privileges among all signatories to the CITEL convention to be held in Lima, Peru, later on this month.

Ray said that for the purposes of the United States, this did not represent a significant increase in communications capability "since we already have bilateral reciprocal agreements with virtually all nations in North, Central and South America."

"The one significant exception, however, is Mexico. This agreement will facilitate reciprocal operating procedures with Mexico and make this a more formalized procedure." Ray said that he was aware that an informal

arrangement exists now where U.S. amateurs can operate in Mexico.

"The agreement may well be the first step toward the arrangement that the European countries have - a universal operating authority in all countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license. The CEPT countries - a French acronym for a group of European nations - have an arrangement among themselves that if you are licensed as an amateur in one of their countries, you are licensed in all other participating countries."

"They have come up with two kinds of operating privileges. The various countries have taken a look at their licenses and determined which fall into 'kind one' and 'kind two'. You can operate with 'kind one' privileges or 'kind two' privileges when you go to a participating country. The prime feature is that you don't have to apply for another piece of paper from the country that you are visiting ...you have those privileges by virtue of holding a license that is recognized."

Ray said he anticipated that all nations will adopt the amateur operating convention that was preliminarily agreed upon in Mexico City "and open it for signature. At that time - or subsequently (depending upon the procedures of the various administrations who are members of CITEL or who wish to

subscribe to that convention) countries can sign the treaty and become bound by it. There are various international technical ways by which you can become a party to these arrangements. The document will go into effect when a certain number of countries adopt the measure."

SPECIFIC AMATEUR CALL SIGN ISSUANCE...

The comment period for PRB-3 closes on July 31st and Ray acknowledged that views and proposals are being received at the FCC. PRB-3 looks toward assigning amateur radio call signs of choice by the private sector. "Several groups and organizations have expressed an interest or intention to submit a proposal to be a Special Call Sign Coordinator (SCSC)", Ray said, "but I have not yet had a chance to check that file."

"I think that the staff will now get to that docket pretty quickly. We will probably start the process in August and I think that it will be one of the earliest things we will consider in the fall."

The ARRL Board of Directors strongly supported the issuance of specific station call signs to amateurs at their recent (July 9-10) meeting in Atlanta but felt this should be a government - rather than a private sector function. The Directors did, however, vote to submit a contingency proposal to be the SCSC providing that no other organization shares this duty with the League and providing that the cost of the program was totally recoverable. The ARRL obviously does not want to participate in another program (such as the VEC system) where other groups cooperate in accomplishing a common goal. The League is concerned that outsiders, rather than the Directors, will control these programs.

"PRB-3 asks the question," Ray commented, "whether there should be more than one major provider of this service. The document sets out a model that contemplates one provider. That is based on our concern that it would be a tremendous problem of logistics and coordination... In the VEC program, any number of people that want to upgrade, can get a license. There is no need to coordinate.

This is not to say that we have made up our mind on this. We are certainly going to consider any viable proposal for a way to have more than one provider and still avoid conflicts in the assignments of call signs."

"One thing that I thought of was the 'Ticketron' approach. Ticketron knows which seat has been given out to a particular performance by coordination of its agents through a central computer. I don't know, but perhaps a call sign system could be set up in a similar fashion."

"We are extremely aware of how important specific amateur call signs are to amateurs by virtue of the mail we get. We write twenty letters a week denying people's requests for special call signs simply on the grounds that we can't process them. The fact that we have a policy that does not allow for specific call signs keeps those requests to a minimum."

"When it was possible to have special call signs, the program evolved to the point where 75% of the time of the Personal Radio Branch - I am not talking about just the licensing branch in Gettysburg - I am talking about the people in Washington that are supposed to be doing rulemaking, adjudications, interpretations and such - was devoted to dealing with requests for special call signs. That's when we threw our hands up and said that this has got to stop and created the automatic (call sign assignment) system. We are very much aware of the sensitivity of amateurs to their call sign and that is what is behind the proposal to see if there is not a way that it can be accomplished in the private sector."

ON THE 220-222 MHZ REALLOCATION ISSUE

The Private Radio Bureau has not yet gotten involved in this matter since it is an OET (Office of Engineering and Technology) proceeding. "The comments just closed and OET now has the massive job of analyzing the substance of all the comments that were filed. PRB will get involved when OET completes that process and comes up with a preliminary draft of an outcome. At that point it will be circulated to us for our opinion of

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W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

August 1, 1987

their handling. I don't know when that will be since I don't know what their schedule is."

ON NEW THINKING AT THE FCC....

We now have what amounts to a different regime at the FCC. Bob Foosaner is no longer the Chief of the Private Radio Bureau - and an amateur (Ralph Haller/N4RH) is the new Deputy PRB Chief. There also is a new FCC Chairman, Dennis Patrick - and still another new Commissioner slot left to fill. I queried Ray Kowalski if there was a chance that there might now be different thinking on a no-code class of amateur radio license.

"Well, I haven't gotten any direction from the new decision makers to look into that. People in a new position have an agenda to accomplish and convey that to us. That, in fact, has taken place. We know the new Chairman's agenda and the items that are of interest to him and that he wants to pursue. Similarly the new Bureau management has translated those major objectives to realizable actions over the next year and a half or two years. A no-code (amateur radio license) initiative is not among them."

REORGANIZATION OF §PART 97 RULES....

"The principle amateur radio initiative is to revisit the body of amateur radio rules. As you know, in this division over the last two-and-a-half years we revisited §Parts 81 and 83 of the Maritime rules and consolidated that into a brand new §Part 80. ...Last month we released a complete review of the Aviation rules - §Part 87. That is on the street now for public comment. We are intending to do the same thing for the Amateur rules - Part 97."

"That will come up this winter some time. (...between December and March.) The FCC shuts down in August. From a regulatory point of view, Labor Day is New Year's day here at the Commission. Reviewing the amateur rules will be one of the major things we will be working on after Labor Day. The rules will be presented to the amateur community as a complete new set of §Part 97. We are not proposing to restructure the service

...only to restructure the physical layout and organization of the rules. It will not be a plain language rewrite."

"We will also be taking a look at some areas that we feel are lacking in substance. We are going to point to the need for some rules. One of the things that I personally have been harping on is some concern about whether modern technology ...especially digital technology ...packet radio and the like, need to have a body of rules of their own. A lot of talk has gone on with regards to making packet work ...the technical and operational environment ...the machines ...the protocol ...the software - all those things. A lot of work has been devoted to that area. I am suggesting that the regulatory environment also needs to be addressed. The present rules do not sit very well and we have had to come up with some temporary 'fixes' already."

ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RULES

"Another area that we are going to be taking a look at is the whole aspect of emergency communication. You take a look at §97.1 of the rules and it says in there that one of the things that amateur radio is all about is emergency types of communications. Yet, our rules do not deal with emergencies. What you will find is an old rule that is never invoked that says the local EIC (FCC Engineer-in-Charge of the local field office) can proclaim a local emergency and throw everybody off the air for a given time period when an emergency is in progress."

"You have a Basis and Purpose rule that says ham radio serves during an emergency. You have international pronouncements that describes the role of amateur radio at such times as when normal communications are damaged, disrupted or overloaded and contemplates amateur radio in an emergency role. There should affirmative emergency operating rules."

GENERAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE NPRM....

"Last week the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking dealing with an overhaul of the General Mobile Radio Service." GMRS is the old Class "A" CB service

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #4

August 1, 1987

...the so-called FM-CB band (although AM is authorized) that operates in the UHF band at 462 and 467 megahertz with a maximum power level of 50 watts.

At one time, the FCC licensed Class "B" CB stations to operate on 465 MHz, the balance of frequencies between 460 and 470 MHz, went to Class "A" CB. Because of lack of use, however, the 460-470 MHz. band was reallocated to other services leaving only 16 (8 paired duplex) channels for Class "A".

Repeaters are authorized for short range business and personal communications. It was renamed to the General Mobile Radio Service in the mid-1970's and is used by many local emergency preparedness teams. GMRS is regulated under §Part 95 of the rules, as is Citizens Band and Radio Control.

GENERAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE

Base Station			Mobile Units	
Transmit	Receive	Channel	Transmit	Receive
462.550	467.550	A	467.550	462.550
462.575	467.575	B	467.575	462.575
462.600	467.600	C	467.600	462.600
462.625	467.625	D	467.625	462.625
462.650	467.650	E	467.650	462.650
462.675	467.675	F	467.675	462.675
462.700	467.700	G	467.700	462.700
462.725	467.725	H	467.725	462.725

"The purpose of the NPRM," Ray said, "is to adjust the balance in that service in favor of personal radio usage ...to distinguish it from commercial radio usage. Right now anyone can get a license in the General Mobile Radio Service to talk to a friend ...or you can run your business with it if its very limited capacities will meet your needs."

"What we are finding out is that businesses which are eligible in the business radio service - and other radio services are coming into GMRS and crowding out their users. We don't think this service can support that widespread commercial use. We propose, henceforth, to license only individuals in that service. There will not be any restrictions on business communications. We are also 'tweaking' the rules also to allow more of the kind of use that people in that service want to

have - such as transient use."

The FCC also proposed to eliminate the need to relicense a GMRS before changing channels, to provide for the addition of channels between channels, change station operator eligibility and to create the concept of "small base stations" to enhance GMRS utility for the mobile-unit-oriented personal user.

Comments are requested on:

- whether it may be desirable to allow the use of more than one channel or channel pair in the GMRS if the Commission no longer decides to assign channels...
- whether the abolishment of the FCC's assignment of a particular channel or channel pair should lead to the consideration of other technologies such as trunking...
- whether the input and output channels of mobile relay (repeater) stations require regularization in order to minimize possible harmful interference...
- and whether the FCC should consider discouraging or prohibiting non-repeater use of repeater input frequencies.

The GMRS could end up as a very useful non-amateur personal communications service for the masses and we will be following this closely!

U.S. LICENSEES ON REFLAGGED VESSELS

Ray also told me an interesting story about the Reagan administration not being aware that when the Kuwaiti oil tankers were recently reflagged to American, that it necessitated that the vessels have FCC licensed radio operators on board.

"Once they became U.S. ships, they became subject to the Communications Act for their radio requirements. We had to license them. Kuwait asked for certain exemptions from the radio telegrapher requirements for some of the vessels that were staying in the Gulf. There are all sorts of laws about what radio equipment they must have on board ...what class of operator, and the like. We have been busy as beavers for three weeks getting all this stuff all nailed down!"

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SOVIET SPIES USING HI-TECH ESPIONAGE....

A rather interesting article in the July 20th Washington Times reports how the Soviet Union is using a high-rise apartment building in downtown Washington for espionage purposes. The 350-foot high Mt. Alto complex offers an unobstructed straight-shot view of the U.S. Capitol, FBI, White House, State Department and the Pentagon - all located within four miles.

The Soviets have an interesting assortment of antennas on the apartment roof which is adjacent to the new (yet unoccupied) Soviet Embassy. They have five yagis, a microwave dish, and two log periodics. One is aimed at CIA headquarters ...the other at the National Security Agency complex at Ft. Meade. Triangular shaped dipoles "could provide VHF transmitting/receiving capability." The antenna support structure is itself another suspected array.

Evidence is that the Soviet "diplomats" operate from the highest locations to laser beam windows of government offices to pick up conversations by measuring minute window vibrations, to monitor all microwave communications, telex, and to receive low-frequency radiations from government computer terminals, telephones ...even electronic typewriters. The equipment also has the capability to intercept cellular and microwave relay phone calls and to communicate with orbiting satellites.

The data received by the apartment antenna complex is reportedly recorded and stored on magnetic computer tape and relayed to a Soviet signals intelligence complex outside Moscow. The Soviets say the antennas are for cable television reception.

REMOTE HOME AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY

Remote controlled home automation gadgets were a popular subject at the recently concluded Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago. Apple Computer's founder, Steve Wozniak, showed a new product called: The Core - for Controller of Remote Electronics. The Core allows the user to enter up to 259 stored instruction sequences - called macros -

with a single keystroke into a push-button phone.

Mitsubishi had its Home Automation System costing \$1,200 (plus installation.) Onkyo Corporation introduced a programmable remote control unit at \$119.95 called the Unifier.

Objective of home automation is to control anything electronic - from burglar alarms to VCR's - using existing electric house or security system wiring ...infrared or low-power radio signals ...cable TV or telephone lines. The EIA's Home Bus Committee has been very busy drafting home automation control standards. A home owner with a push-button phone simply calls into their system from anywhere in the world and enters appliance instruction commands.

Pacific Bell's Project Victoria prototype residential telephone line can handle automatic meter reading, monitor security alarms, provide LAN communications between personal computers and support two ongoing telephone conversations simultaneously.

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS....

issued as of the first of July.

Radio District:	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Adv. Tech/Gen	Gp."C" Novice	Gp."D"
0	NZ0F	KA0OX	N0IFJ	KB0AYS
1	NK1V	KC1ES	N1EVS	KA1QQQ
2	NX2S	KE2AZ	N2HIX	KB2EBW
3	NI3L	KD3DP	N3FQE	KA3RZG
4 (†)	AB4CA	KK4OL	N4QNK	KC4AZZ
5 (†)	AA5AU	KG5AI	N5KYX	KB5DYT
6 (†)	AA6DL	KI6VB	N6PVF	KB6TGU
7	WD7G	KF7BK	N7JON	KB7CNT
8	NX8P	KE8MT	N8IOP	KB8CWS
9	NT9L	KE9FG	N9GRH	KA9ZET
N.Mariana I.	AH0E	AH0AC	KH0AI	WH0AAG
Guam	KH2E	AH2BR	KH2CR	WH2AKY
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(*)	AH6IC	NH6KG	WH6BTU
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer.Samoa	AH8C	AH8AC	KH8AD	WH8AAW
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AC	KH9AD	WH9AAG
Alaska	(*)	A17IZ	NL7KU	WL7BPG
Virgin Is.	KP2T	KP2BI	NP2CE	WP2AFR.
Puerto Rico	(*)	KP4NR	WP4IX	WP4HHI

August 1, 1987

(Note: *=Group "A" format call signs have now run out in Puerto Rico and thus join Hawaii and Alaska where Extra Class amateurs are being issued Group "B", 2-by-2 formats. †=Extra Class amateurs in the 4th, 5th and 6th call sign districts are being issued calls from the AA-by-2 block.)

JUNE AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS....

	June 1985	1986	1987
First Time Amateurs:	1186	2028	1850
Novice Class Upgraded:	1167	962	2258
Technician Upgraded:	344	348	466
General Upgraded:	386	407	501
Advanced Upgraded:	223	301	381
Total Hams Upgrading:	2120	2018	3606
Novice Renewals:	276	148	333
Novices Dropped/Service:	1	1285	1259
Total Renewals:	2199	1809	3711
Total Dropped/Service:	513	1766	1813
Change/Census (Month):	+673	+262	+6558
Indiv. Amateurs:	409,068	418,279	429,491
Club/Military/RACES	2850	2727	2444
Active Stations:	411,912	421,006	431,935
Change in Census:		+2.23%	+3.18%

DISTRIBUTION OF AMATEURS BY LICENSE....

	June 1985	1986	1987
Total Novice:	76,188	78,942	84,822
Percent of Total:	18.6%	18.9%	19.8%
Total Technician:	81,688	84,985	89,167
Percent of Total:	20.0%	20.3%	20.8%
Total General:	116,595	116,606	114,969
Percent of Total:	28.5%	27.9%	26.7%
Total Advanced:	97,383	97,970	98,018
Percent of Total:	23.8%	23.4%	22.8%
Total Extra Class:	37,214	39,776	42,515
Percent of Total:	9.1%	9.5%	9.9%
Total Amateurs:	409,068	418,279	429,491
(Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania)			

SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL HAM CALL SIGNS

On July 20th, the FCC released the text of the waiver of §Part 97.84(a) that allows certain club stations to identify using a special "200" call sign. The ARRL had requested the FCC to allow designated amateur club stations to use a special commemorative

amateur call sign in lieu of their assigned call signs as a means of celebrating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

The ARRL stated that its "People to People" project has been officially recognized by the Bicentennial Commission and that the use of a special bicentennial call sign would enhance and highlight the operating aspects of the project. It includes a "We the People" Worked All States Award and the participation of non-amateurs as "shortwave listeners" in order to interest them in becoming amateur radio operators.

The League requested that a special "200" call sign be authorized to amateur club stations operating from state capitals (and capitols) around the country. Dignitaries at the state and national level would be invited to participate at the display amateur stations which would also be open to the public.

All amateur club stations that pre-register with the ARRL are authorized to replace their numeral in the call sign with the number "200" for a one week period in accordance with a schedule to be published by the League. The state where the club station is located will be noted and the schedule will correspond closely with the date of entry of that state into the Union. The operation for a designated week begins at 0001Z Saturday through 2359Z the following Friday.

The ARRL will provide each FCC field office with a data base printout of all preregistered club stations using the numeral "200" to facilitate ready identification of the trustee. The waiver was granted for the period 0001Z September 17, 1987, through 2359Z December 21, 1988.

(Action by FCC Order, Adopted July 9, 1987)

● On July 17th, the FCC's San Diego field office closed an 18 month investigation into the illegal marketing of CB radio devices in California and Arizona. Roger S. Williams of CB retail outlet, "Mud Shack" was arrested for selling CB linear amplifiers and modified CB radios to operate on unauthorized frequencies. In addition, the FCC San Diego office issued fines totalling \$14,000 to seven other CB vendors. Each fine was for \$2,000.

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #7

August 1, 1987

● A newspaper article in the Long Beach, California, Press-Telegraph tells about how the Coast Guard was guided by ham radio operators from Orange County and Tahiti to reach a Washington couple, Patrick and Susan Thomas, that had been adrift for three days in their damaged sailboat 700 miles south of San Diego. The distress call, put out on amateur frequencies, was heard in Tahiti and relayed to California. No amateur call signs were given.

● Swordfisherman are using illegal radio beacons on the 160 meter amateur radio band according to a complaint filed with his Congressman by Henry Luhrman, W4PZV, of Florida. The FCC, called it a "victimless crime" but is trying to put a stop to it and have contacted fishing industry representatives. FCC reports that of the original 85 beacon call signs, only about ten are left. Luhrman says that when the fishing season starts up again this fall, they will all be back.

● The Japanese Fuji OSCAR 12 "Flying Mailbox" is up and running! Hundreds of international packet satellite messages have been posted and received. The BBS software was loaded by JAMAT technicians on June 21. AMSAT advises that the number of messages is limited to 50. If you write more than 50, older messages are overwritten. Your messages can be read by anyone and you can read messages addressed to someone else.

● An article in Satellite Times, a backyard TVRO publication, contends that the FBI, Securities and Exchange Commission and U.S. Secret Service is investigating Keith Lamonica, W7DXX, host of the satellite sub-carrier delivered "FM America" program. The article mentions illegal carrying or possession of firearms, complaints about the penny stock sold by Lamonica under the FM American International and KMA International name and possible fraud due to Lamonica's use of credit cards to receive orders for merchandise on his program or donations to FM America.

● The Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs (CEMARC) will operate KAISM (Science Museum) from the Museum of Science in Boston on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, 1300 - 2100Z. Objective

is to interest non-hams in Amateur Radio. Visitors will be able to communicate with hams around the world and locally by voice, keyboard and sight using ham computers (packet), television (fast scan full duplex), satellites and HF radio. All visitor operation is acknowledged with a souvenir certificate ...learning a few letters of Morse code also earns a certificate. A message center will accept radiogram traffic. Primary operation will be on 20 meters. Attractive full-color QSL available. Attendance to the weekend exhibit is expected to exceed 15,000 people.

● The new 73 Magazine editor-in-chief is Extra Class licensee, Larry Ledlow, Jr, NA5E. Presently residing in England, Larry is resigning from civil service to join Wayne Green Enterprises next month. Larry also has been one of our contact Volunteer Examiners (VE-2129) while in the United Kingdom.

● Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN continues to have a dispute with the FCC. He was the fellow that sued the Commission all the way up to the Supreme Court when the FCC changed to an amateur transmitter P.E.P. output power of 1500 watts rather than the previous 1000 watt input plate power to the final amplifier. He also heads up the International Amateur Radio Network. Glenn was transmitting some net bulletins recently on 3.880 MHz and apparently left the carrier on too long. The FCC's Belfast (Maine) monitoring station slapped him with a citation. He answered the Notice of Violation and advised them that he would also be watching the monitoring station "and will be examining your work via the Freedom of Information Act under a microscope as well."

● CQ Magazine announces the formation of the CQ Novice Century Club, a new award designed to encourage activity on the Novice bands. Novices must submit a list of 100 claimed QSO's from whom they have received QSL cards - on an application form (available from CQ for an SASE). Send listed QSL's, which must be verified by two Technician Class or higher licensees, to: Novice Century Club Manager, CQ Magazine, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. You'll receive a handsome numbered NCC certificate. There is no application fee.

Page #8
August 1, 1987

● Tab Books has just released "Transmitter Hunting, Radio Direction Finding Simplified" by Joe Moell/KØOV and Tom Curlee/WB6UZZ - featuring tried-and-true ...and newly developed methods of closing in on the target. 323 pages, 235 illustrations. Item No. #2701: (\$17.95 - Toll-free 1-800-233-1128.)

● Herb Nelson, Jr., W9IGL, has just published the 1987 Callbook Supplement which brings the 1987 North American and International listings up-to-date. The Callbook is to Amateurs what the phone book is to the community. \$10.00 (plus \$3.00 shipping) from: 925 Sherwood Dr., Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044. The Callbook has been a fixture in Amateur Radio for some 65 years. Did you know that the Callbook initially used to get their data from carbon copies of FCC hand-typed amateur licenses? It is now compiled and typeset, of course, from computer data tapes provided by the FCC. The DX Callbook, however, is particularly difficult to compile since not every nation provides names and addresses of its amateurs and many must be translated. Japan and the Soviet Union present special problems. Only Japanese amateurs that the Callbook can get English translated addresses are listed. A Soviet Callbook is issued occasionally but complete addresses are apparently classified.

Our own Novice Voice Class Package is now available for immediate shipment. We have a "ton" of them - both the fully illustrated textbook and the complete Novice package. Book contains all 302 questions, multiple choices, answers and explanations plus everything you ever wanted to know about becoming a ham radio operator ...including how to give the examination. The complete package also contains two long-play code learning tapes, Novice tests, and more. Special discounts available to Novice classroom instructors and dealers.

Textbook only: \$4.95 \$3.45 \$3.20 \$2.95 ea.
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binder.) Add \$1.50 ea. shipping for the text-
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for those that wish to review. From: W5YI,
P.O. Box #10101, Dallas, Texas 75207.

● Missouri amateurs can forget about the proposed legislation to reduce cost of ham call automobile plates from \$12 to \$5. Present policy equating ham plates to vanity plates remains in effect. While Missouri House approved the measure, it was defeated in the state Senate on the last day of the session.

● The Regency IF-1 "Informant" VHF/-UHF Mobile Scanner has been selected by the 1987 Summer Consumer Electronics Show for their "Innovation's '87" award. The mobile scanner comes pre-programmed with the local and state police frequencies for all 50 states. You merely dial up the 2 letter state code and it scans that state's police channels at the rate of 50 per second! (List \$369.95)

● Athletes, arriving at the Tenth Pan American Games in Indianapolis, are receiving information on how to send messages back to their homeland. W9JP, the Village Message Center station, is handling ARRL numbered radiograms and 15 word custom messages via 2-meters and packet to W9PAX in Indianapolis for further forwarding..

● Hi-Tech computerization comes to the nation's prisons! Business Information Systems (La Crescenta, CA) has a Jail Management System which (among other features) equates stored fingerprints to the numbers prisoner's wear on their striped shirts.

● Look for the ARRL's VEC program to undergo a much-needed streamlining. West Gulf Director Jim Haynie/WB5JBP, concerned about League's mounting (we heard \$160,000) VEC testing program deficit, put forth a motion at the recent Board Meeting (unanimously accepted) calling for Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President to look into their VEC program. Objective is to get expenses in line with test revenues. Sumner will report back to the Board at their next meeting, January 22, 1988. Haynie, an ex-Dallas Amateur Radio Club president, is no stranger to volunteer testing. The DARC was one of the first VEC's approved by the FCC.

● ARRL advises that September 1st is the deadline for registering your net in the 1988 ARRL Net Directory. Send SASE to League for network registration card, FSD-85.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a [redacted] International [redacted]. I have never had any station or transmitter license revoked or suspended. I do not own significant

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

• Professional technology writer, Stuart Crump, N4EGX, has a new book out entitled "The Portable Office" focusing on how to use modern technology in a mobile/portable business environment. Some of his ideas involve car phones, answering machines that call pagers, nationwide satellite pagers, toll-free 800 number use, voice mail, laptop computers, portable dictation machines, car navigation DF devices, etc.. (\$16.95 from Creative Communications, PO Box 3190, Oakton, VA 22124)

• "Megamessage" is a brand new nationwide paging service that distributes its signals over the Telenet (U.S. Sprint) packet switching network before local 900MHz radio transmission to pagers.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE ON AIRCRAFT

Operation of amateur radio equipment aboard commercial aircraft is prohibited by FAA §91.19. Due to many recent technology advances since the current FAA rules were enacted, the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, an aviation safety advisory group headquartered in Washington, has proposed the following revision of:

FAA §91.19, Portable Electronic Devices

(a.) Except as provided in paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this section, no person may operate, nor may any operator or pilot in command of an aircraft allow the operation of, any portable electronic device on any of the following U.S. registered civil aircraft.

(1.) Aircraft operated by an air carrier or commercial operator or;

(2.) Any other aircraft while it is operated under IFR (instruments)

(b.) Portable electronic devices specifically not allowed include any radio transmitting device which intentionally radiates, such as Citizen Band (CB) radios, cellular radios, and transmitters which remotely control devices such as toys.

(c.) Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to:

- (1.) hearing aids;
- (2.) heart pacemakers;
- (3.) electronic watches;
- (4.) properly certificated operator equipment (such as operator provided passenger telephone equipment);

(d.) Non-transmitting portable electronic devices may be used when the seat belt sign is off, provided that the operator of the aircraft has determined that the device will not cause interference with the aircraft's electronic equipment, such as navigation or communications systems. If interference from a portable electronic device is suspected, the operator may prohibit operation of the device. Devices which may be used if demonstrated acceptable, include but are not limited to:

- (1.) audio or video recorders;
- (2.) audio or video playback devices;
- (3.) electronic entertainment devices;
- (4.) computers;
- (5.) calculators;
- (6.) FM receivers;
- (7.) TV receivers;
- (8.) electric shavers.

(e.) Personal life support systems may be operated during all flight phases, provided that the operator of the aircraft has determined that the system will not cause interference with the aircraft's electronic equipment, such as navigation or communications systems.

(f.) In the case of an aircraft operated by an air carrier or commercial operator, the determination required by paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section shall be made by the air carrier or commercial operator of the aircraft on which the particular device is to be used. In the case of other aircraft, the determination may be made by the pilot in command or other operator of the aircraft.

EXTENDED COVERAGE HAM TRANSCEIVERS

The FCC has circulated a Public Notice re-emphasizing the Commission's rules regarding equipment that is intended to operate in the Amateur Radio Service, and also in other radio services.

The Commission has noted that a number of transceivers marketed for use in the Amateur Radio Service are also capable of transmitting in the adjacent bands allocated to other radio services, such as the business (land mobile) service and the Maritime Services. "Some manufacturers are offering conversion kits to permit their transmitters and receivers to be modified so that they can operate in a similar manner," the FCC said.

"The manufacturers and users of such devices are reminded that transmitters intended for operation on frequencies allocated to most of the licensed services must be type accepted (i.e. government approved) by the the Commission for the particular radio service in which they are intended to operate prior to the marketing or use of these devices. Transmitters used in the Amateur Radio Service as well as transmitters used by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) must comply with the applicable technical standards but are not required to be type accepted."

"It is a violation of the Commission's regulations to:

- (1.) ...market an Amateur Radio Service transmitter that is intended to operate also on frequency bands outside of the ARS, CAP or MARS bands without a grant of equipment authorization required for the radio service(s) in which the transmitter operates;
- (2.) ...market or operate a transmitter that requires a grant of equipment authorization but for which no grant has been issued; or,
- (3.) ...transmit on a frequency allocated to a licensed service without the appropriate Commission-issued station license."

(FCC Public Notice #4114, dtd: July 21, 1987)

DALLAS HAM SUES IN FEDERAL COURT

A local Dallas repeater dispute has erupted into a full scale (and very nasty) war. In 1982, the Texas VHF Society, the recognized repeater coordinator, granted Blaine Hamrick, AL7HH, a repeater coordination on the 144.63/145.23 MHz (2-meter) pair. About the same time a group called the North Texas Repeater Association was formed. NTRN's Dave Pease, N5DA, was coordinated to a different repeater pair.

Hamrick, however, allowed the North Texas Repeater Association to install a repeater on his coordinated pair. When what he considered to be questionable communications appeared on his coordinated frequency, he decided to "repossess" the repeater pair. It was some NTRN members position, however, that the frequency pair had been properly turned over to the NTRN.

Another NTRN repeater was heard on this frequency identifying with a NO5R call sign. The Texas VHF Society notified James McQueen that his repeater was uncoordinated and later, complained to the FCC that enforcement action was necessary. The Dallas FCC field office directed McQueen, as the uncoordinated repeater, to take action as necessary to resolve the problem.

The whole situation continued to deteriorate with much ill feeling, name calling, foul language, jokes in bad taste, communications with sexual innuendos - and the like. There have also been reports of false newspaper advertisements, prank telephone calls, unauthorized purchases, ...even IRS notification of improper repeater fund handling.

On July 17th, 1987, Dave Pease/N5DA filed a suit (which cost several thousand dollars in civil fees) in Federal 191st District Court/Dallas seeking a temporary restraining order against Blaine Hamrick/AL7HH, the Texas VHF Society, and seven NTRN members alleging slander and libel. The temporary restraining order and its terms were granted - (that is, except for one involving harrassment over the airwaves) until July 27th. A hearing is scheduled next week to determine if the restraining order should be permanent.

The final suit asks for actual and exemplary damages with interest, legal costs "and such other and further relief to which the plaintiff may be justly entitled."

The whole fiasco caused Wayne Green, W1NSD/1 to comment in his August 1987 73 Magazine Never Say Die column that the Texas repeater war has little significance "when compared with the federal deficit, acid rain, baby seals, whales, Chernobyl, hunger in Africa, civil war in the Phillippines, the loss of our consumer electronic industries, the drug problem, unwed teenage mothers, etc."

The fact is, however, that the dispute has cost the taxpayer dearly since untold FCC resources have been used to respond to all of the complaints ...and they are not over. I don't know the answer to all of this, but repeater stupidity is a serious problem which seems to be growing.